

Older Individuals Who Are Blind

Reducing Fear and Dependence

Program Overview

California has one of the largest concentrations of older blind persons in the country. As a result, the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) receives annual federal funding under the Rehabilitation Act to provide services and resources to individuals who are 55 years and older and are blind or visually impaired to enable them to remain as independent as possible in their local communities.

The DOR administers the 17 grants, which provide core services for unserved and underserved older visually impaired populations. These grants, commonly referred to as the Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) grants, are sub-granted by the DOR to programs that have the capacity to provide independent living and OIB programs and services.

Services

- Orientation & Mobility
- Adaptive Equipment/Assistive Technology
- Transportation
- Activities of Daily Living, or Independent Living Skills
- Adjustment Counseling
- Self-Advocacy
- Low Vision Training
- Other needed services to enhance participation in and integration with the larger community

Facts

- Approximately \$3.2 million contracted annually to 17 agencies.
- 5,509 individuals received services in Federal Fiscal Year 09-10. Over 54% of these consumers were over 80 years of age.

